

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action dated April 18, 2005. Claims 2, 3, 4 and 7 have been amended and Claims 1, 10, 11, 19 and 20 have been cancelled and new Claims 21-27 have been added. The application now includes Claims 2-9, 12-18 and 21-27 with Claims 2, 12 and 21 being the only independent claims. Favorable reconsideration, in view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 1 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 3, 10, 11 and 20 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for the reasons noted therein. It is believed that the above amendments to the claims overcome these rejections.

In paragraph 4 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 11, 19 and 20 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,628,598 to MacNeill. As discussed above, Claims 1, 11, 19 and 20 have been cancelled.

In paragraph 5 of the Official Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 12-18 are allowable.

In paragraph 6 of the Official Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 2-9 contain patentable subject matter and will be allowed upon the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 being overcome (claim 3 only) as well as rewriting in independent form. Claim 3 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection and Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, it is believed that Claim 2, along with dependent Claims 3-9, are in condition for allowance.

New Claim 21 contains similar subject matter to that of original Claim 12 and recites in part "wherein said outer wall structure of said furnace is provided with a fluid chamber layer located directly adjacent said exhaust ports so as to provide a fluid path from an interior chamber of said furnace, to said fluid chamber layer, and to said plurality of exhaust ports". Thus, it is believed that Claims 21, along with dependent Claims 22-27, are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner does not

believe that the above remarks and amendments place the application in condition for allowance, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at (419) 255-5900 to discuss the application prior to the issuance of an action in this case by the Examiner.